Rehabilitation of sick fertilizer Units

2600. SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILISERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-items captioned "Government mulls sell off in fertilizer units" which appeared in the Telegraph dated the 7th June, 1998;

(b) whether Government are finalising a decision on re-habilitation of sick units of HFC and FCI in next three to four months as reported; and

(c) whether as holding on operation Government are contemplating utilisation of funds from KRIBHCO for repair/re-start of sick units like Durgapur;

(d) if not, whether Government prefer payment of Income Tax of about Rs. 100 crores a year by KRIBHCO vis-a-vis idle capacity utilisation in the sick unit; and

(e) if so, the reason therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILISERS (DR. A.K. PATEL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The revamp of the Namrup units of Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation Ltd. (HFC) has been approved by the Government at an estimated fresh investment of Rs. 350 crore. The company has taken necessary steps for the launch of the revamp project. The proposals in respect of the remaining units of HFC and Fertilizer Corporation of India Ltd. (FCI), which are to be submitted to the Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR), will be finalised on considerations of unitwise viability and tie up of the funding arrangements.

(c) to (e) There is no arragement for utilisation of the resources of KRIBHCO for undertakings the work of repairs, replacement and renewal in sick fertilizer units. However, KRIBHCO has formulated a proposals for setting up a modern, standard ammonia/urea plant at Gorakhpur, using the existing infrastructure of the sick FCI unit. A detailed feasibility report for the project has been prepared and the investment proposal is under consideration.

KRIBHCO is also contemplating expansion of its ammonia/urea complex at Hazira. Investment approval for KRIBHCO's participation in a joint venture ammonia/urea fertilizer project in Oman has been accorded.

Proposal to constitute a National Drug Authority

2601. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILISERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a proposal to constitute a National Drug Authority to monitor the proliferation of drug market in the country with spurious and substandard and mis-branded drugs was mooted by Government some years back;

(b) if so, the reasons for delay in the finalisation of the proposal; and

(c) whether Government propose to constitute such an authority, if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILISERS (SHRI SURJIT SINGH BARNALA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The implications of setting up a National Drug Authority are being examined in consultation with technical experts and other concerned Ministries/Departments by the administrative Ministry, i.e. Health & Family Welfare.

ओमान स्थित कम्पनी के साथ उर्वरक संबंधी सौदा

2602. **श्री गोपाल सिंह जी० सोलंकी:**
श्री गोविन्दराम मिरी:

क्या रसायन और उर्वरक मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या सरकार ने हाल ही में रसायन और उर्वरक मंत्रालय के किसी उच्चस्तरीय प्रतिनिधि मंडल को ओमान भेजा था जिसे ओमान स्थित कम्पनी के एक साथ बड़े समझौते पर हस्ताक्षर करने के लिए अधिकृत किया गया था;

(ख) यदि हां, तो उक्त प्रतिनिधि मंडल को सरकार द्वारा अनुमति प्रदान की गई थी अथवा वह उर्वरक सचिव के आदेश पर वहां गया था;

(ग) क्या उक्त समझौते से एक गंभीर विवाद खड़ा हुआ है जैसा कि दिल्ली से प्रकाशित अंग्रेजी दैनिक "दि पायनियर" में समाचारों की श्रृंखला प्रकाशित हुई है; और

(घ) यदि हां, तो इस संबंध में सरकार की क्या प्रतिक्रिया है?

रसायन और उर्वरक मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (डा० ए०के० पटेल): (क) गत हाल ही में रसायन और उर्वरक मंत्रालय के अधिकारियों के किसी प्रतिनिधि-मंडल को ओमान स्थित कम्पनी के साथ समझौते पर हस्ताक्षर करने के लिए ओमान नहीं भेजा गया है।

(ख) से (घ) प्रश्न ही नहीं उठता।

Report of Working Groups of Planning Commission on Fertilizers

2603. SHRI GOVINDRAO 'ADIK: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILISERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the working Groups set up by the Planning Commission on fertilizers had submitted its report to Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of action taken for a major hike in urea prices for balanced use of soil nutrients and keeping the subsidy bill under control; and

(d) the details of action plan based on new policy initiatives formulated by Government for 1998-99 and likely impact thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILISERS (DR. A.K. PATEL): (a) and (b) For the preparation of the Ninth Five Year Plan (1997—2002) the Planning Commission set up a Working Group on Fertilizers on 22.12.95 under the Chairmanship of Secretary (Fertilizers). The Working Group submitted its report to the Planning Commission on 25.7.96.

(c) With a view to promoting balanced use of soil nutrients and keeping the subsidy bill under control, the issue price of urea was enhanced by 10% with effect from 21.2.97. Government is implementing a scheme of concessions on the sale of phosphatic and potassic fertilizers to boost the consumption of these fertilizers by reducing their farmgate prices. Special Central Sector Schemes are also being implemented for promoting integrated use of chemical fertilizers, bio-fertilizers and organic manures.

(d) The High Powered Fertilizers Pricing Policy Review Committee, which was constituted on 28.1.97 to undertake an in-depth review of the retention price scheme applicable to urea and the overall policy of subsidisation of plant nutrients, has submitted its report on 3.4.98. The recommendations of the committee are under the consideration of the Government.

राज्य-वार प्रदूषण के स्तरों की निगरानी

2604. **श्री नागमणि:**
चौधरी हरमोहन सिंह यादव:

क्या पर्यावरण और वन मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या प्रदूषण स्तरों की राज्य-वार जांच की जा रही है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो प्रत्येक राज्य में प्रदूषण स्तरों की निगरानी करने के लिए क्या क्रियाविधि अपनाई जाती है;

(ग) क्या इस क्रियाविधि द्वारा मासिक रिपोर्ट संकलित की जाती है; और

(घ) यदि हां, तो तत्संबंधी ब्यौरा क्या है?

पर्यावरण और वन मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री बाबू लाल मरांडी): (क) और (ख) जल (प्रदूषण की रोकथाम और नियंत्रण) अधिनियम, 1974 और वायु (प्रदूषण की रोकथाम और नियंत्रण) अधिनियम, 1981 के अंतर्गत प्रदूषण स्तरों के मानीटरन का उत्तरदायित्व मुख्य रूप से राज्य प्रदूषण नियंत्रण बोर्डों को सौंपा गया है। इसके अतिरिक्त पूरे देश में स्थापित परिवेशी वायु (290) और जल गुणवत्ता (480) मानीटरन केन्द्रों के एक नेटवर्क के द्वारा केन्द्रीय प्रदूषण नियंत्रण बोर्ड पर्यावरण प्रदूषण को मानीटर कर रहा है। शोर और वाहन प्रदूषण के स्तरों का मूल्यांकन करने के लिए केन्द्रीय प्रदूषण बोर्ड भारत के मुख्य शहरों में सर्वेक्षण भी करता है।